

Program 4: Rabbi Jesus - Part 2

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Body and Soul: Program 4

Rabbi Jesus - Part 1 (Review)

First Century Rabbi

1. Disciples Addressed Yeshua as Rabbi
 - Documented on 12 occasions

 2. Definition: Rabbi
 - Rav: Root word
 - Great, many, numerous
 - Master of a slave
 - “My master” - term of respect
 - After 70 AD it became a formal title for a teacher

 3. First-Century Jewish Rabbi: Teaching Location
 - A. Geographic Locations
 - (1) Northern Kingdom (represented by Galilee)
 - (2) Southern Kingdom (a.k.a. Judea)
 - (3) Beyond the Jordan
 - (4) People Gathered from All regions to Hear Yeshua

• Galilee	• Judea	• Across the Jordan
• Jerusalem	• Decapolis	• Syria
• Edom	• Tyre	• Sidon

 - B. Venues
 - (1) Villages
 - (2) Homes
 - (3) Outdoors
 - (4) Synagogues
 - (5) Temple

 4. Teaching Methods
 - A. Discourses
 - All could understand
 1. Sermon on the Mount
 2. Seven discourses in John

 - B. Parables
 - Chosen would understand
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5. Financial Support
 - Could not charge for teaching
 - Could accept hospitality from listeners
 - Practiced a trade
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6. Father Figures
 - Rabbi became like a father to his followers/disciples
 - Disciples often referred to as “sons”
 - Held in higher esteem than natural fathers

Rabbi Jesus - Part 2

7. Making Disciples

- Rabbi's Goal: get as many people as possible to "take upon themselves the yoke of Torah."
- Accept God's reign in their lives

Matthew 11:28-30

28 "Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest.

29 Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."

1 John 5:3

For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments; and His commandments are not burdensome

- "You will find rest for your souls"
 - Rabbinic technique:
 - Quote a portion of a verse
 - The listener would complete the verse for themselves
 - Thus achieving the full understanding of what is being said by the teacher

Jeremiah 6:16

Thus says Yehovah,

"Stand by the ways and

see and ask for the ancient paths,

Where the good way is, and walk in it;

And you will find rest for your souls.

But they said, 'We will not walk in it.'

- Jesus was not bringing a new teaching but was explaining God's unchanging truth.
- Jesus understood He would be rejected.

- Goal: Develop fully devoted followers
- Would train advanced students as disciples
- "Disciples" at times refers to the general followers and at other times to the twelve

First Century Discipleship

- Full-time apprenticeship
- Traveling the country under austere conditions
- Leaving friends and family
- Usually single because a man needed the permission of his wife if he wanted to leave for more than 30 days to follow a sage

1. Sacrificed Comfort and Security

Luke 9:57-60

⁵⁷ As they were going along the road, someone said to Him, "I will follow You wherever You go."

⁵⁸ And Jesus said to him, "The foxes have holes and the birds of the air have nests, but **the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head.**"

⁵⁹ And He said to another, "Follow Me." But he said, "Lord, permit me **first to go and bury my father.**"

⁶⁰ But He said to him, "**Allow the dead to bury their own dead;** but as for you, go and proclaim everywhere the kingdom of God."

- Father not dead
- Wanted to wait until his father died so that He did not risk losing his inheritance (property - a place to lay his head - and wealth)

2. Completely Committed

Luke 9:61-62

⁶¹ Another also said, "I will follow You, Lord; but first permit me to [say good-bye to those at home.](#)"

⁶² But Jesus said to him, "No one, after putting his [hand to the plow](#) and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God."

- Reference to Elijah and Elisha
- Elisha left everything in order to take on the mantle of the prophet
- We must follow immediately and without hesitation

3. Life's Priority

Luke 14:25-26

²⁵ Now [large crowds](#) were going along with Him; and He turned and said to them,

²⁶ "If anyone comes to Me, and does not [hate](#) his own [father](#) and [mother](#) and [wife](#) and [children](#) and [brothers](#) and [sisters](#), yes, and even his [own life](#), he cannot be My disciple.

- Hate: to love less than the primary object of affection
- Jesus is challenging the crowd in order to identify the true believers from the curiosity seekers

4. Long-range Process

Luke 14:28-30

²⁸ For which one of you, when he wants to [build a tower](#), does not first sit down and [calculate the cost](#) to see if he has enough to complete it? ²⁹ Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is [not able to finish](#), all who observe it begin to ridicule him, ³⁰ saying, 'This man began to build and was not able to finish.'

- Like Paul we want to finish our race successfully

2 Timothy 4:7

I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith;

5. Prepares for the Consequences of Following

Luke 14:31-32

³¹ Or what [king, when he sets out to meet another king in battle](#), will not first sit down and consider whether he is [strong enough](#) with ten thousand men to encounter the one coming against him with twenty thousand?

³² Or else, while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for terms of peace.

- Jesus warned his disciples in **John 15:18-27** that they would be hated by men
But He promised in **Matthew 28:20** to always be with them
and in **John 16:33** He reassured them he had overcome the world

6. Surrenders Control of Their Life

Luke 14:33

³³ So then, none of you can be My disciple who does not give up all his own possessions.

- A doulas/bond servant owns nothing
- A doulas/bond servant must hold nothing back from the master
- A doulas/bond servant has all of the master's resources available to them in order to fulfill the master's commands.

Philippians 4:13,19

¹³ I can do all things through Him who strengthens me. ...

¹⁹ And my God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.

7. Rich Young Ruler: Example of a Failed Disciple

Luke 18:18

¹⁸ A ruler questioned Him, saying, "Good Teacher [Rabbi], what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" ¹⁹ And Jesus said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No one is good except God alone. ²⁰ You know the commandments, 'Do not commit adultery, Do not murder, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Honor your father and mother.'"

²¹ And he said, "All these things I have kept from my youth."

- He obviously never heard the Sermon on the Mount

²² When Jesus heard this, He said to him, "One thing you still lack; **sell all that you possess** and distribute it to the poor, **and you shall have treasure in heaven**; and come, follow Me." ²³ But when he had heard these things, he became very sad, for he was extremely rich.

- Possessions were his idol
- Jesus exposes that the ruler that He did not keep the commandments!
- Tangible demonstration of the true condition of the young ruler's heart.

²⁴ And Jesus looked at him and said, "**How hard it is for those who are wealthy to enter the kingdom of God!**

²⁵ For it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God."

- Hard to "give up" control of possessions to God
- Hard to rely on God and not on self
- Hard to keep possessions from becoming an idol

²⁶ They who heard it said, "**Then who can be saved?**"

²⁷ But He said, "**The things that are impossible with people are possible with God.**"

- Culture taught that the rich had found favor with God
- If the rich could not be saved, how could the common or the poor possibly be saved?
- The impossible is possible with God not only because of his omnipotence, but because the economy of God is not the economy of man.
- Economy: management or mode of operation

²⁸ Peter said, "Behold, **we have left our own homes and followed You.**"²⁹ And He said to them, "Truly I say to you, there is no one who has left house or wife or brothers or parents or children, for the sake of the kingdom of God, ³⁰ who will not **receive many times as much at this time and in the age to come**, eternal life."

- Relationships: Luke 9
- Possessions: Luke 18
- Beyond restoration to reward

Conclusion

- Rabbi: my master, my teacher
- Itinerate teacher & craftsman
- Not reimbursed but supported
- Goal: "develop fully devoted followers"
- Cost of discipleship: everything
(Sacrifice, Commitment, Priority, Process, Consequences, Control)
- Rewards of discipleship: eternal